

Chicago Eagle.



Entered as Second Class Matter October 11, 1889, at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under Act of March 3, 1879.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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MUST SHOW BIDS

All Contracts Let by City, County, or the Board of Election Commissioners, Must Show Figures.

This thing of giving men public contracts without figures or bids is played out.

There has been too much of it. The idea of letting men who furnish public supplies make their own figures is obsolete.

BODINE'S REPORT

Boys have customarily been considered bad, but according to W. L. Bodine, superintendent of compulsory education, they are getting worse. Mr. Bodine made his annual report to Supt. John D. Shoop and he did not give the schoolboy a clean bill of health.

"The question of discipline seems to be growing," reported Mr. Bodine, "and many requests are received from principals to have boys brought into the juvenile court for incorrigible conduct and persistent violation of the rules."

Mr. Bodine reported that in fifty-six cases where children between the ages of 14 and 16 are at work the wage paid was from \$1 to \$2 a week. His department investigated working conditions of 4,700 cases—2,825 boys and 1,875 girls. The average wage is about \$5 a week.

Mr. Bodine complained against the indifferent attitude of parents toward the truancy of their sons and daughters. In the Municipal court 264 parents were prosecuted and 50 received fines or sentences.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Burglars Are Interfering with Its Operations.

The Daily News says that burglars are interfering with the work of collecting taxes in Chicago. The board of review, which began daily sessions for the benefit of the property owners who believe that they have been unjustly assessed, received several complaints from men who asserted that they should not be taxed because they had been robbed of the property which had been assessed.

Robert Schiff, owner of a dry goods store at 1636 West 69th street, was so ingenious in his plea that the board of review canceled his assessment. The assessors valued his stock at \$1,450. Mr. Schiff sent a letter to the board inclosing newspaper clippings showing that burglars entered his store and carried away everything of value. He made a statement that his stock was worth \$850 and he owed \$700.

"Not only that, but I am ready to quit and go to war," said Mr. Schiff. "I am married, but I want to fight. I am not one of those fellows who got married after war was declared, either."

A possible loss in valuation of more than \$1,000,000 confronted the board at the start. W. F. Dummer, a capitalist with offices in the Rookery building, claims he is not a resident of Chicago. The assessors listed him for \$1,215,000, including a stiff penalty for failure to file a schedule. Mr. Dummer is in California. His agent said Mr. Dummer's personal property was worth not to exceed \$25,000. Frank S. Ryan, one of the members of the board, continued the hearing until Sept. 3, to give Mr. Dummer an opportunity to return to Chicago and testify under oath.

"That is just one of the problems that we have," said Mr. Ryan. "If Mr. Dummer proves his residence is California, and not Chicago, we may be compelled to slash more than \$1,000,000 from the assessment rolls."

Speaking for the board, Mr. Ryan urged property owners who intend to protest against their assessments to appear early and avoid the congestion the last days the board is in session.

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Thus far the majority of complainants have been small property owners, including several widows, who said they were barely able to eke out a living from small inheritances, and other women who support themselves by hard work. Mr. Ryan promptly canceled most of these assessments.

"We want to save the property owners all expense possible and wish to impress on them that it is not necessary for them to employ attorneys," Mr. Ryan said. "The board has an attorney who will give advice needed, and the property owner who appears in person will receive perhaps more lenient treatment than the one who sends an attorney with an array of technical objections. We want every one to feel they are free to appear before us and realize that we are watchful of their interests as we are desirous of increasing the tax rolls."

MAYOR'S SCHOOL BOARD WINS

The Lundin-Thompson school board has received from the hands of Judge Walker in the Circuit court the stamp of being legally "O. K." So have its appointees, Percy B. Coffin as business manager, Charles R. Francis as attorney and Albert H. Miller as secretary, besides John D. Shoop, whom it re-elected as superintendent of schools.

An appeal has been granted to the Appellate court, which will review Judge Walker's decree. There is little doubt that the case will ultimately reach the state supreme court.

The victory for the city hall came when Corporation Counsel Etelson's motion to vacate the order permitting State's Attorney Hoyne to file ouster proceedings against the Lundin-Thompson board was granted by Judge Walker, who held that the city council had no right to take back at a later meeting the confirmation of nine of the new school board which it voted on June 18.

CERVENKA HURT

John A. Cervenka, clerk of the Probate court and president of the Pilsen Brewing company, was struck by an automobile and his left leg was broken at West Twenty-sixth street and South Albany avenue. He was also cut on both arms and was bruised on the body.

The automobile was owned and driven by C. W. Sellers of 4116 Twenty-fifth place. Sellers was arrested.

Mr. Cervenka was removed to St. Anthony's hospital. He told the police he was unable to dodge the automobile.

THE COAL SITUATION

In three separate meetings producers and retailers of coal gathered in Chicago to see what they can do to cut prices for the benefit of the people of Illinois and still the complaints that the people are being robbed. Representatives of the mine owners are believed to be trying hard to arrive at a satisfactory and amicable agreement with a committee of the state council of defense for a reduction in the price of coal at the mines. The retailers are meeting in two separate bodies at the Hotel La Salle.

Publicity and punishment are the two weapons advocated for coal dealers who charge unfair prices by Editor Arthur Hull of the Retail Coalman. Editor Hull told members of the Illinois and Wisconsin Retail Coal Dealers' association that in his opinion the most feasible method for dealing with the retail situation is by organization of state committees composed of patriotic coal dealers. These committees could determine a fair price for handling and delivering coal in the various districts of their state.

Costs of handling and delivery differ in every place, he said, and where complaint might be made that any particular dealer was trying to take unfair advantage of the present perilous conditions the committee could investigate and if it found the charge true it could expose the unjust dealer

through the local press and could also take measures to shut off his wholesale supply of coal.

"As long as consumers insist on buying small quantities of coal, however, the cost of service in handling and delivering such small quantities is bound to be large," explained Editor Hull.

President T. J. Cossey of Danville presided and I. L. Runyan of Chicago acted as secretary. The other meeting of retailers arranged for today was a gathering of secretaries of all retail coal dealers' associations in the territory lying between the Alleghenies and the Missouri river. It is the intention of both associations to present reports at Washington within the next few days.

At the headquarters of the state council of defense Chairman Samuel Insull issued the following:

"Statements appearing in the Chicago

VEHICLE TAX IS \$1,500,000

More than Million In and Remainder Soon Will Be Collected.

Chicago next year will have the finest and best kept roadways in the country. Deputy City Collector George F. Lohman predicted as he announced the collection of \$1,007,673.88 in vehicle taxes since May 1.

The total collection for the period of May 1, 1916, to April 30, 1917, was \$998,758.90. With over a million dollars collected during the first three months of this period, Mr. Lohman said, close to \$1,500,000, would be collected before the summer is over.

This money is used for street repairs and improvements. Chief Schuetzler was instrumental in assisting City Collector Forsberg to force vehicle owners to purchase tax tags early. Policemen were instructed to arrest everybody found in possession of a vehicle without a tag.

MUNICIPAL THEATRE PLANNED

The Drama league is to experiment with a municipal theater—one where \$2 shows may be seen for 10 cents. Every Friday night for the remainder of the summer the public will be provided with entertainment on the municipal pier. Mrs. Josephine Clement, who provided Boston with \$2 shows

BATTLE OF 1918

United States' Senators, Sheriffs, County Treasurers, County Clerks, Congressmen, Legislators and Others To Be Elected.

Next year's election will be an important one.

A United States Senator is to be elected.

Before the United States entered the war Senator Lewis let it be known that he was not inclined to ask the Democrats to renominate him.

Accordingly, while there is uncertainty as to who will be the Democratic candidates for nomination at the primaries, there is none concerning the Republicans.

Here's the G. O. P. list to date, according to the political gossip heard in Springfield during the session of the General Assembly just closed:

Congressman-at-Large Medill McCormick.
Charles S. Deneen, former governor.
State Senator Morton D. Hull.

may get together against Lowden and McCormick.

Most everyone in politics believes that Gov. Lowden will be satisfied with one term at Springfield and that he has his eye on the senatorial toga worn by Lawrence V. Sherman, whose successor is to be elected in 1920.

Sherman has been making some speeches which indicate that the presidential bee is not out of his bonnet. It wasn't a very lively bee in 1916, but bees grow.

Brundage is out to make a record as attorney general which will put him in line for the senate or the governorship two years later.

Sherman helped him to be elected attorney general, although he was supposed to be neutral as between him and Senator Richard J. Barr of Joliet. Most of Sherman's leaders worked for Brundage.

With Lowden as Sherman's most likely rival for the senatorship in 1920, it is by no means a stretch of the imagination to expect the governor to line up with McCormick next year. McCormick now seems to be the strongest candidate.

Then in 1920 McCormick could pay the political debt by helping Lowden against Sherman.

Such a deal would necessitate Sherman taking a hand next year against McCormick, and Brundage is selected as the man most likely to be supported by the senator.

These two factions might make such a hot fight of it that a Deneen-Hull-West man would slip in and take the race in an eyelash finish.

War will be the issue, with prohibition, the "con-con," corporate control of the general assembly and the road bond issues trailing along.

Chipperville is now a major on somebody's staff. He has been in Springfield lately showing off his many figure in a brand-new uniform. It might be possible for him to so distinguish himself in battle as to make him a popular hero, which would insure some votes for the senate.

Neither McCormick, Lowden, Sherman, nor the others, however, take the Chipperville candidacy very seriously.

As for Hopkins, some sort of a tariff league started him in the race several months ago. The others refuse to be frightened by his entry.

When the traction barons and the "wets" and "drys" get into the battle for election of members of the general assembly the candidates will find themselves between two fires and the senatorial contest is bound to be dragged into this fight.

Prospects are high for the high-priced bitter republican scrap. The "boys" are licking their chops already in keen anticipation of picking the like of which never were known in Illinois before.

DAILEY DE-SERVES CREDIT

Trustees of the sanitary district protest against giving President Charles H. Sergel all the credit for the reforms that have recently been instituted by the board. Wallace G. Clark says that Mr. Sergel is entitled to less credit than the other members and that James M. Dailey, one of the trustees, was largely responsible for the adoption of the budget system of handling the board's finances.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Clark, "the adoption of the budget system came as a result of an evolutionary process, having been under discussion for several years. In 1914 I introduced an order before the board of trustees asking for a budget. This year the plan got its principal impetus from Trustee James M. Dailey, chairman of the committee on finance. While at Springfield, in behalf of sanitary district legislation, Trustee Dailey became impressed with the budget idea and on his return, April 26, he introduced an ordinance providing for a budget for the year 1917 and each year thereafter."

"President Sergel's claim is remarkable in view of the fact that since the day of his inaugural he has not urged in any of the meetings of the board of trustees or the meetings of committees the adoption of a

budget system. On the other hand, when the informal estimates of department heads were submitted last January and lump sum appropriations made based thereon, he stated that that was enough of a budget to satisfy the taxpayers. Greatest credit for the adoption of a budget plan at this time is due to Trustee Dailey."

CITIZENS START FIGHT AGAINST GAS ORDINANCE

The legality of the new gas ordinance in Chicago, which was passed by the city council on June 1, will be attacked before the state public utilities commission by the Public Ownership League of Chicago. The formal objection to the ordinance was filed in Springfield yesterday by Fayette S. Munro, attorney for the league.

The objection sets forth that the new ordinance is in conflict with the public utilities law, and that no agreement as to rates was ever reached between the city and the Peoples Gas Light and Coke company.

Claims are made that the ordinance is discriminatory, and that the proposed change in rates is designed to compel the people of Chicago to buy electricity for lighting purposes, and gas for heating purposes.

TRUSTEES IGNORE SCHOOL SUIT

Another legal campaign against the Thompson school board was begun before Master in Chancery Roswell B. Mason. It resulted in a number of clashes between Assistant Corporation Counsel Chester E. Cleveland and Attorney Fayette S. Munro.

The suit was brought by Harry Scott, a taxpayer, against Clayton F. Smith, city treasurer, to prevent him from paying the salaries of Capt. Percy B. Coffin, new business manager of the school board; Albert H. Miller, secretary, and Charles R. Francis, new school attorney.

Contempt proceedings may result against Charles S. Peterson, chairman of the finance committee of the old board and reappointed by the mayor, and Albert H. Severinghaus, both of whom refused to testify.

HOYNE WARNS COUNTRY SALOON MEN

State's Attorney Hoyne warned Mayor Thompson against "blind pigs," and county saloonkeepers against keeping open on Sundays.

His warning, the first step in a county-wide bone dry Sunday movement, will be sent to the officials of 155 cities, towns, and villages, of which the following fifty-four are "wet":

Arlington Heights, Forest Park, Melrose Park, Chicago Heights, Bartlett, Franklin Park, Morton Grove, South Holland, Bellwood, Glenview, Mount Greenwood, Spring Forest, Blue Island, Glenwood, Mount Prospect, Niles, Stickney, Broadview, Harvey, Niles Center, Summit, Brookfield, Burnham, Hazel Crest, Oak Lawn, Tessville, Burr Oak, Hillside, Palatine, Thornton, Chicago, Hodgkins, Homewood, Phoenix, Tinley Park, South Chicago Heights, Justice, Posen, West Hammond, Chicago Ridge, Lansing, Riverdale, Wheeling, Clearing, Dolton, Lemont, River Grove, Worth, Elmwood Park, Lyons, Schererville, Evergreen Park, Matteson, Schiller Park.

Boulevard Addison Street and save it for the people.

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ISAAC N. POWELL
Popular Republican Leader Much Talked of for Mayor.

ago papers this morning concerning the proceedings of the joint committee composed of representatives of coal operators, mine workers and members of the council of defense were entirely unauthorized and largely untrue.

"Also, I regard it as injurious and detrimental to the public interest to speculate on reductions of coal prices before any conclusion has been reached.

"When the State Council of Defense was organized it was agreed that all statements in behalf of the council should be given out by the chairman of the publicity committee. I am that chairman, and have given out no statement of the proceedings of the joint session yesterday, Monday.

"We are very anxious to give out a statement, and will do so as soon as something has been accomplished. But until a conclusion has been reached we will not be prepared to make any statement; to make a statement before we reach a conclusion would be useless and perhaps harmful."

for a dime, is to direct the "Municipal Pier theater."

"Nothing is so good for democracy and patriotism as to teach people to play together," said Mrs. Clement.

"A municipal theater would be a splendid civic move for Chicago, whose great parks, public playgrounds and free concerts are the things for which it is most enviably famous throughout the country. Performers of a certain standard of excellence would have a chance to entertain Chicago.

"Every phase of the city life would directly or indirectly at some time come into the spirit of this theater of the people. The programs are varied to appeal to the cosmopolitan audience and will be constantly improved as talent and plans develop. The idea is to have the things 'evolve' rather than be made to order, so that it will more nearly represent the growth of the democratic art spirit."

Sustain the Legislative Voters' League. It does good work for the people.

Attorney General Edward J. Brundage.

Mayor William Hale Thompson.

Burnett M. Chipperville, former congressman-at-large.

Albert J. Hopkins, former United States senator.

There are a couple of others, but they haven't cut much figure. It is said that "Billy" Mason wants a chance, and there is always a possibility of William Lorimer seeking vindication at the hands of his party.

From this distance it looks like McCormick, Brundage, Deneen and Thompson are certain starters in the senatorial derby. The question is, how will they line up? Here's the gossip; take it for what it is worth:

Gov. Lowden's forces will support McCormick.